GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3009
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2000
REVISED PENSION TO WIDOWS OF EX SERVICEMEN
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL)

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the widows of Ex-servicemen prior to 1950 are not only getting the revised pension, but also the arrears accrued thereon;

(b) if so, whether representations have been received from the widows whose spouses had lost their lives while on duty prior to 1950;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in providing pension to such widows; and

(d) the steps being taken for redressal of their complaints? ANSWER

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOKSABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3009 FOR 7.12.2000

Vth Central Pay Commission (CPC) recommendations, as accepted by the Government, do not provide for any separate category of the pre-1950 family pensioners. The reference points, as enunciated by Vth CPC pertain to post-1.1.1996, pre-1.1.1996 and pre-1.1.1986 categories of pensioners. All pre-1.1.1986 family pensioners form a single category for the purpose of revision of family pension.

2. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Vth CPC, pension of Defence Pensioners was revised in two stages. In the first stage, Government orders were issued on 24.11.1997, authorising Pension Disbursing Agencies (PDA), viz., branches of Public Sector Banks, Defence Pension Disbursing Offices and Treasuries to consolidate the family pension and to pay the arrears and pension at revised rates, with effect from 1.1.1996, to family pensioners, directly without any authorisation from Pension Sanctioning Authorities. The family pension, so revised, was paid as an interim measure to provide immediate relief to pensioners. As per available information, arrears, pertaining to such consolidation, have already, been credited in favour of all pre-1.1.1996 family pensioners. No complaint, in this regard, is pending with the Government.

3. In the second phase , further orders were issued on 27.5.1998 for revision of pension/family pension for Commissioned Officers and on 14.7.1998, in respect of Personnel Below Officer's Rank (PBOR) pensioners, who had retired/died before 1.1.1986.

4. The revised pension/family pension payment orders, in respect of Commissioned Officers, are issued by the Pension Sanctioning Authority, i.e., Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pension), on receipt of applications, in the prescribed form, through the Pension Disbursing Authority. The Principal Controller of Defence

Accounts (Pensions) have revised family pension in all pre-1950 cases, in respect of which, applications relating to family pension of widows of Commissioned Officers, have been received by issuance of Corrigendum Pension Payment Order, in each case. As per available information, no representation is pending in this regard.

5. The work of revision of pension for PBOR has been entrusted to PDAs with reference to pension tables annexed with the Government orders of 14.7.1998 revising pension. With the acceptance of the concept of modified parity, family pension for PBOR has also been made table-based and PDAs have been authorised to revise the family pension of all pre-1986 family pensioners of PBOR.

6.The above approach was adopted for expeditious revision of family pension of all Defence pensioners. As and when any case for non revision / delay in revision of family pension is brought to the notice of the Government, the matter is taken up with the concerned PDA to ensure payment of revised pension to the pensioners.

7. Continuous monitoring is being done by the Ministry of Defence and Controller General of Defence Accounts. Principal Controller of Defence Accounts, Allahabad and nodal officers of Pension Disbursing Agencies are required to submit weekly progress report in this regard to the Ministry.